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Washington, D. C.

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Subject: Your contract No. [redacted]

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Dear [redacted]

In accordance with the conflict of interest clause of the subject contract, I submitted a letter on October 18, 1963 requesting authorization to undertake certain work for [redacted]

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In reply, your letter of January 16, 1964 requested that I forego such a connection. You indicated that because of the special nature of my services as your representative in contacts with contractors and because you at present have a contract with [redacted] which might also be extended in the future, such an association would not be consistent with the purposes of our contract.

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I am fully mindful of the potential conflict of interest in my contacts with contractors as your representative, and I strive to maintain an exemplary position. It was my opinion that my working with [redacted] would not entail any conflict. I wish to present here some additional information not in my previous letter and which I used in forming my opinion. I will also present an alternative for your consideration to the request made in your January 16, 1964 letter.

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First, consider the nature of the work. Dr. [redacted] renders professional services under your contract with [redacted] directly to the persons concerned in your organization. It is inappropriate that I investigate or report on that work and I am not required to do so. Since I do not perform any function with respect to your contract with [redacted] nor exert any influence over the performance of the work, nor act as your representative with respect to that contract, I concluded there was no conflict. That it would be unacceptable for me to ever attempt to do any of the above seems to have been intuitively recognized by the persons involved.

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The work that I am proposing to do for [] concerns the configuration of photographic equipment for a research program for the Navy to determine why pilots become disoriented in low level flight. Commercially available equipment will be used. It will be either be purchased or rented by [] for the contract work. There is no association of this work with any of the activities connected with your contract with me. It seems evident therefore that no cross interests would be generated which could give rise to a conflict of loyalties.

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Next, consider the nature of the contractual status. It is not at present either necessary or desirable that I contact this particular company as your representative and it is unlikely that such contacts would be required in the foreseeable future. There are it seems to me two possible approaches to ensure absolutely that no conflict will arise in the future. One is the approach proposed in your letter of January 16, 1964, i.e.: That I NOT undertake any work with []. The other, which I am proposing here, is that I NOT undertake to investigate or report on any work which [] may do for you.

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I believe the second alternative would be as fully effective as the first. Also, it can readily be self-policing by ~~that~~ the Technical Representative of the Contracting Officer and me. Further, the second alternative would not appreciably diminish the scope of my activities for you since [] is not now included therein.

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To summarize, it seems evident that the work itself involves no conflict of interest and that adoption of the ~~present~~ second alternative proposed above would eliminate any possible conflict due to contract status.

I respectfully request that you consider the information presented in this letter and advise me whether you will reconsider your previous request and consent to my rendering professional services to []

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Very truly yours,

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